

be debatable for 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the original proponent and opponent;

(4) the amendment numbered 4 may be offered only before noon on Friday, September 26, 1997, or after 5 p.m. on Monday, September 29, 1997;

(5) the amendment numbered 2 in House Report 105-264 may be offered only on Tuesday, September 30, 1997;

(6) the amendment numbered 4 and the amendment offered by Representative Rogers may be offered without regard to the stage of the reading;

(7) after the sum of the number of motions to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 7 of rule XXIII) or that the Committee rise offered by Members of the minority party reaches three, the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may entertain another such motion during further consideration of the bill only if offered by the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations or the Majority Leader or their designee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of making an announcement to the House about the House's work schedule for the remainder of the legislative program.

Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman from West Virginia wish to comment on the unanimous-consent request?

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would tell the gentleman, no. I thank the majority. We agree with it, and appreciate the opportunity to work it out. We are glad that we have worked it out, and look forward to further debate on the bill.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, of course I realize fully that the unanimous-consent request was completely understood by all the Members here, and that there could possibly be no questions related to it.

I know that it reminded me of that great Harry Bellafonte song, "It's clear as mud but it covers the ground," and everybody here is satisfied with where we are. I would like to take a moment, though, Mr. Speaker, to explain what this all means in our lives as Members as we plan the rest of our evening, the rest of the week and further consideration of this bill.

Let me begin, Mr. Speaker, with the good news. The good news is that there will be no more recorded votes this evening. Now, it only gets better from here, Mr. Speaker. The committee, again, the Members of the committee and the floor managers have once again

tonight demonstrated that they continue to be willing to stay here and work on the bill even though the rest of us are free from the constraint of further votes this evening, and they will remain and continue to consider titles 2, 3, and 4 of the bill, and hopefully make good progress on those titles tonight. We will return tomorrow to consideration of the bill. The House will reconvene at 9 a.m. in the morning. It is our interest tomorrow to complete as much as is possible and hopefully altogether consideration of titles 5 and 6.

Members should understand and be assured that what we have obtained in this unanimous-consent request is a minimal number of dilatory or otherwise extracurricular votes. There will be some, but they will be minimal.

Furthermore, there are agreed-upon time limitations on some of the amendments. We ought to be able to proceed in consideration of this bill. But all Members should understand that we are no longer able, in order to achieve that much progress on the bill as is necessary to fit it into the work schedule for the remainder of the year and the impending end of the fiscal year, we may not be able tomorrow to be out by 2 o'clock, as is the expected time on Friday.

We should, however, feel quite confident that we can assure Members by virtue of this agreement that we will not work on Saturday or Sunday, and we will resume next week as scheduled. It is altogether possible, if things go well tomorrow, that we could make 2 o'clock, but Members need to understand that that might not be the case.

I want to thank everybody that has been a party to this agreement. If I may indulge myself for just a moment to put a rib on one of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle, I take a risk here, I know, but of course I always prey on his good sense of humor. The gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER], who is affectionately known on our side as the deacon of dilatoriness, has agreed with this, as we all have.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I think in plain English Members need to understand that that means tonight all votes will be rolled. The debate on the census will occur on Tuesday.

Mr. ARMEY. That is absolutely right. I appreciate that. Again, let me thank the Members. It has been my pleasure again this evening to speak to the House.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 239 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in

the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2267.

□ 2243

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2267) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, with Mr. HASTINGS of Washington in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

□ 2245

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today, amendment No. 12 offered by the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HOSTETTLER] had been disposed of and the bill was open for amendment from page 42, line 5, to page 43, line 6.

The order of the House of today will be printed in the RECORD at this point.

The text of the order of the House of today is as follows:

During further consideration of H.R. 2267 pursuant to House Resolution 239:

(1) No further amendment shall be in order except: amendments printed before September 25, 1997, in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII; amendments numbered 2 and 3 in part 2 of House Report 105-264; one amendment offered by Representative Rogers of Kentucky after consultation with Representative Mollohan of West Virginia; one amendment to the amendment printed in the Congressional Record and numbered 4; and pro forma amendments offered by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees;

(2) Each amendment shall be considered as read and (other than the amendments numbered 2 and 3 in part 2 of House Report 105-264 and the amendment numbered 4 and any amendment thereto) shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent;

(3) The amendment numbered 4 shall be debatable for 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, except that if an amendment thereto is offered before that debate begins, then the amendment and the amendment thereto shall be debatable for 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the original proponent and opponent;

(4) The amendment numbered 4 may be offered only before noon on Friday, September 26, 1997, or after 5 p.m. on Monday, September 29, 1997;

(5) The amendment numbered 2 in House Report 105-264 may be offered only on Tuesday, September 30, 1997;

(6) The amendment numbered 4 and the amendment offered by Representative Rogers may be offered without regard to the stage of the reading;

(7) After the sum of the number of motions to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 7 of rule XXIII) or that the Committee rise offered by Members of the minority party reaches three, the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may entertain another such motion during further consideration of the bill only if offered by the chairman of the Committee on